3.3 FOWLING GUT SYSTEM STUDY SITES

3.3.1 Qualitative Site Description

Physical description. This is a complex site (Figure 8) covering 21 ha and consisting of many parallel ridges and swales, emergent freshwater marshes, and emergent estuarine marshes adjacent to Fowling Gut. Because of this complexity we have divided the site into two sections (estuarine and palustrine). The estuarine portion consists of the western side of the site which is composed of estuarine emergent marshes associated with Fowling Gut. The palustrine portion consists of the eastern side of the site and is dominated by freshwater palustrine wetlands and pine ridges. The site has been altered on all four sides by development and the encroachment of houses, filled areas, and borrow pits.

Definitions. The WIA consists of the site as outlined by the EPA. The basin for the estuarine portion includes Fowling Gut from its origin to Mire Pond. The basin for the palustrine portion includes the estuarine portion and Fowling Gut, although it should be noted that surface drainage from the palustrine

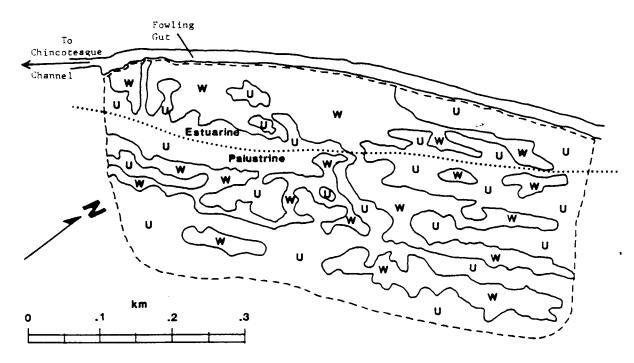


Figure 8. Map of Fowling Gut System WIA showing wetland (w) and upland (u) areas. Major outlet is indicated by arrow that depicts the direction of water movement from the site. Estuarine and palustrine portions of the WIA are separated by dotted line.

portion occurs only during wet, rainy periods. The sub-watershed for both sites consists of the forested ridges and developed homesites within close proximity to the wetland impact areas and basins.

Qualitative vegetation description. The emergent estuarine wetlands in the estuarine portion are dominated by <u>Spartina patens</u>, <u>Distichlis spicata</u>, <u>Iva</u>, <u>Scirpus robustus</u> and <u>Spartina alterniflora</u>. <u>Phragmites</u> dominates along the northwestern corner of the site and along the northern edge of the site where considerable disruption and filling has occurred. The wetlands on the palustrine portion are dominated by <u>Hibiscus</u>, <u>Kosteletzkya</u>, <u>Typha</u> and <u>Spartina patens</u> in certain areas. Walter's millet (<u>Echinochloa walteri</u>) dominates a small marsh at the northern end of the site. The borrow pit ponds which lie along the eastern side of the site are surrounded by <u>Typha</u>, <u>Peltandra</u>, and red maples.

<u>Wetland classification.</u> The forested ridge areas in both sites are upland communities. The estuarine wetlands are estuarine emergent. The palustrine wetlands are palustrine emergent.

Substrate, water salinity. Substrates underlying these areas are largely sandy or sandy loam soils with small amounts of accumulated organic matter near the surface (15 cm). Water adjacent to and in Fowling Gut has a salinity of approximately 10-20 ppt depending upon the amount of recent rainfall. Water in the interior areas of the palustrine portion has a salinity of from 1 to 4 ppt.

<u>Wildlife use.</u> There are numerous signs (footprints, feces, etc.) of use by waterfowl including black ducks and wood ducks and wading birds at both sites. There is much evidence of both juvenile and salt marsh fishes in the ponds and wetlands adjacent to Fowling Gut. Most areas of the site are apparently utilized by raccoons and other small mammals.

Hydrologic functions. The estuarine portion experiences limited, daily tidal exchange with Fowling Gut. During wet periods drainage is principally out of the wetland and southeast along Fowling Gut. The palustrine portion, under dry conditions, drains internally into the water table aquifer. During wet, rainy periods there are several small surface outlets to the estuarine portion and ultimately to Fowling Gut. Because of these characteristics the palustrine portion probably has a very high groundwater recharge potential. Both portions of the site probably have high flood storage and nutrient retention potential.

3.3.2 Adamus and Stockwell Evaluations: Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

Summary Sheet D

This form is the appropriate place for recording the ratings that result from use of the interpretation procedures and keys in Sections 2.1.2, and 2.2.2. As each analysis is completed, enter its rating (high, moderate, or low; or A, B, or C) in the relevant box until all boxes for functions of interest are filled.

Begin by labeling the context of the analysis (pre- or post- construction, with or without mitigation, name of basin and WIA). Then enter the data, using the numbered footnotes to help locate the associated analyses. For the evaluation of each function's Effectiveness, enter whichever rating is higher--That for the basin or that for the WIA. The evaluation of the impact vector is optional.

BASIN	v	VIA		PROJECT			
EVALUATION TIME FRAME (PRE	POSTI	MITIGATION PLAN #					
FUNCTION	EFFECTIVENESS'	OPPORTUNITY	FUNCTIONAL RATING	SIGNIFICANCE	FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE		
GROUND WATER RECHARGE	low	moderate	low	moderate	low		
GROUND WATER DISCHARGE	low		10w	high	Tow		
FLOOD STORAGE	high	low	moderate	high	high		
SHORELINE ANCHORING*	high	low	moderate	moderate	moderate		
SEDIMENT TRAPPING	moderate	high	hign	high	l very high		
NUTRIENT RETENTION LONG-TERM** SEASONAL**	moderate moderate	high high	high high	high	very high		
FOOD CHAIN SUPPORT DOWNSTREAM ¹² IN-BASIN ¹³	moderate moderate		moderate moderate	moderate	moderate moderate		
FISHERY HABITAT WARMWATER** COLDWATER** COLDW.RIVERINE** ANADROMOUS RYSh, Hd. SPECIES** C1 Win F1 **	low moderate		low moderate	moderate	low moderate		
WILDLIFE HABITAT GENERAL DIVERSITY* WATERFOWL GP." 1 WATERFOWL GP." 2 SPECIES** COMMON FGret SPECIES**		eratewinter low low		moderate	moderate low low high		
ACTIVE RECREATION** SWIMMING BOAT LAUNCHING POWER BOATING CANOEING SAILING	low low low low		low low low low	moderate	low low low low		
PASSIVE RECREATION AND HERITAGE** IMPACT VECTOR RATING**				moderate	moderate		

FOOTNOTES

These entries will be based on analyses in the following parts of Volume II (numbers correspond to footnotes above):

^{1.} Forms A, Al (p. 6, 51); 2. Section 2.1.2.2. (p. 97); 3. Forms B, Bl (p. 38, 54); 4. Section 2.1.2.2. (p. 97); 5. Interpretation key in Section 2.1.2.1. p. 57; 6. p. 59; 7. p. 60; 8. p. 62; 9. p. 64; 10. p. 67; 11. p. 67; 12. p. 69; 13. p. 71; 14. p. 73; 15. p. 75; 16. p. 79; 17. p. 80; 18. p. 84; 19. p. 91; 20. p. 92; 21. p. 93.

^{*} Blue Fish, Hard Clam, Winter Flounder

Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

Response Sheet A1

THRESHOLD ANALYSIS: FUNCTIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

This sheet is the appropriate place for recording the responses to corresponding questions in Form A. A "yes" (Y) or "no" (N) response must be circled for all parts of each question, even when the response seems obvious. This response sheet has two major columns—"NIA" and "BASIN", and within each of these, three subcolumns entitled "X", and "D", which address, when relevent, the seasonal changes in some of the predictors, as follows:

W column responses are those addressing what the area would look like (a) during the wettest time of an average year, or (b) if the area is tidal, what it would look like during an average daily high tide (flooded) condition.

D column responses are those addressing what the area would look like during either the driest time of the year (questions pertaining to hydrology) or if the question pertains to vegetation, then during the dorment time of the year. If the area is tidal, "D" refers to its daily low tide (exposed) condition.

for example, question 2.1.1 should first be asked and answered in the context of the WIA's (wetland impact area's) average condition, then in terms of its wettest condition, then the basin's average condition, and finally the basin's wettest condition. This should then be repeated for question 2.1.2. Because no Y/N choice is given in either "D" column, the area's dry or dormant condition need not be evaluated for this question. Similarly, some questions will require responses only for the WIA or basin, but not both.

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Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Estuarine Portion

Response Sheet B1

THRESHOLD ANALYSIS: SIGNIFICANCE

This sheet is the appropriate place for recording the responses to the corresponding questions in Form B. Circle Y (yes) or N (no), being careful to note that the order of Y and N below frequently reverses.

General 1.1 (9) Y 1.2 (10) Y 1.3 (9) Y 1.4 (10) Y 1.5 (10) Y 1.6 (10) Y 2. Y(10)	Nutrient Retention 37. Y (1) 38. Y (1) 39. Y N 40. Y N 41. Y N 42. W Y
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20. ON 21. YOU See Comment form 22. NY Shoreline Anchoring 23. YOU 24. ON 25. ON 26. ON See Comment form 27. ON	Active Recreation 61. Y (N) 62. W N 63. Y (N) 64. W N 65. Y (N) 66. Y (N) 67. W Y
28. Y 29. 29. Y Y Sediment Trapping 30. Y S 31. Y S 32. O N 33. O N 34. O N 35. O N 36. S Y	Passive 68. Y 69. Y 70. Y 71. Y 72. Y 73. Y 74. Y 75. Y 76. Y 77. Y 78. Y 78. Y 78. Y 78. Y 78. Y

Form	"A"	Comments	(Fowling	Gut	System -	Estuarine	Portion)
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WIA	= area inside dashed line answers concerning specific wetland characteristics refer to wetland areas only within WIA (Figure 8)
Basin	= WIA + Fowling Gut from origin to Mire Pond (bordering the Mire Pond fill site and the Mire Pond Scrub-Shrub System)
1.1	At least two confined channels deliver water from 4B to 4A during wet conditions
2.2.1	WIA constricted because most exchange with Fowling Gut occurs through a narrow tidal channel
7	Predictor not used
8	Sub-watershed = all areas that drain into Fowling Gut from origin to Mire Pond
5.2	See site map (Figure 8) and definitions for this site
9	Predictor not used
15	Forested ridges dominate sub-watershed
23	< 30 cm porous organic over sand
27.1-27.2	WIA and Basin are tidal and surrounded by uplands. During flooding the aerial extent of water coverage is only slightly expanded
39.5	Constriction by six or more small culverts between WIA and Chincoteague Bay
39.6	Nonpoint discharge around Fowling Gut

3.3.3 Adamus and Stockwell Evaluations: Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

Summary Sheet D

This form is the appropriate place for recording the ratings that result from use of the interpretation procedures and keys in Sections 2.1.2, and 2.2.2. As each analysis is completed, enter its rating (high, moderate, or low; or A, B, or C) in the relevant box until all boxes for functions of interest are filled.

Begin by labeling the context of the analysis (pre- or post- construction, with or without mitigation, name of basin and WIA). Then enter the data, using the numbered footnotes to help locate the associated analyses. For the evaluation of each function's Effectiveness, enter whichever rating is higher--That for the basin or that for the WIA. The evaluation of the impact vector is optional.

BASIN	v	VIA	F	PROJECT						
EVALUATION TIME FRAME (PRE/POST) MITIGATION PLAN #										
FUNCTION	EFFECTIVENESS'	OPPORTUNITY	FUNCTIONAL RATING	SIGNIFICANCE	FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE					
GROUND WATER RECHARGE	high	moderate	high	moderate	high					
GROUND WATER DISCHARGE®	moderate	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	moderate	high	high					
FLOOD STORAGE	high	high	high	high	very high					
SHORELINE ANCHORING®	high	low	moderate	high	high					
SEDIMENT TRAPPING	high	hiah	hiah	hiah	very high					
NUTRIENT RETENTION LONG-TERM* SEASONAL*	high moderate	high high	high high	moderate	high high					
FOOD CHAIN SUPPORT DOWNSTREAM' ² IN-BASIN' ³	moderate moderate		moderate moderate	moderate	moderate moderate					
FISHERY HABITAT WARMWATER** COLDWATER** COLDW.RIVERINE**	low		low	moderate	low					
ANADROMOUS RIV. SPECIES"					moderate					
WILDLIFE HABITAT GENERAL DIVERSITY*	moderate summer	winter	moderate		_					
WATERFOWL GP." 1	low	low	low	ح	low					
WATERFOWL GP." 2 SPECIES" Black Duck SPECIES" SPECIES"	low low	low low	low low	moderate	low low					
ACTIVE RECREATION" SWIMMING BOAT LAUNCHING POWER BOATING CANOEING SAILING	low low low low		low low low low low	moderate '	low low low low					
PASSIVE RECREATION AND HERITAGE** MPACT VECTOR RATING**				hiah	high					

FOOTNOTES

These entries will be based on analyses in the following parts of Volume II (numbers correspond to footnotes above):

1. Forms A, A1 (p. 6, 51);

2. Section 2.1.2.2. (p. 97);

3. Forms B, B1 (p. 38, 54);

4. Section

2.1.2.2. (p. 97);

5. Interpretation key in Section 2.1.2.1. p. 57;

6. p. 59;

7. p. 60;

8. p. 62;

9. p. 64;

10. p. 67;

11. p. 67;

12. p. 69;

13. p. 71;

14. p. 73;

15. p. 75;

16. p. 79;

17. p. 80;

18. p. 84;

19. p. 91;

20. p. 92;

21. p. 93.

Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

Response Sheet A1

THRESHOLD ANALYSIS: FUNCTIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

This sheet is the appropriate place for recording the responses to corresponding questions in Form A. A "yes" (Y) or "no" (N) response must be circled for all parts of each question, even when the response seems obvious. This response sheet has two major columns—"WIA" and "BASIN", and within each of these, three subcolumns entitled " \bar{x} ", "W", and "D", which address, when relevent, the seasonal changes in some of the predictors, as follows:

I column responses are those addressing either (a) the average annual condition, or (b) the condition intermediate between the wettest and driest annual conditions (e.g., late June in most Prairie pothole wetlands), or (c) the condition of maximum annual standing crop of wetland plants, or (d) if tidal, the average daily mid-tide condition.

W column responses are those addressing what the area would look like (a) during the wettest time of an average year, or (b) if the area is tidal, what it would look like during an average daily high tide (flooded) condition.

O column responses are those addressing what the area would look like during either the driest time of the year (questions pertaining to hydrology) or if the question pertains to vegetation, then during the dormant time of the year. If the area is tidal, "O" refers to its daily low tide (exposed) condition.

for example, question 2.1.1 should first be asked and answered in the context of the WIA's (wetland impact area's) average condition, then in terms of its wettest condition, then the basin's average condition, and finally the basin's wettest condition. This should then be repeated for question 2.1.2. Because no Y/N choice is given in either "D" column, the area's dry or dormant condition need not be evaluated for this question. Similarly, some questions will require responses only for the WIA or basin, but not both.

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Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

				
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Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

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Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion

Response Sheet B1

THRESHOLD ANALYSIS: SIGNIFICANCE

This sheet is the appropriate place for recording the responses to the corresponding questions in Form B. Circle Y (yes) or N (no), being careful to note that the order of Y and N below frequently reverses.

General 1.1 (N)Y 1.2 (N)Y 1.3 (N)Y 1.4 (N)Y 1.5 (N)Y 1.6 (N)Y 2. Y (N)	Nutrient Retention 37. Y 38. 38. Y 89 39. Ø N 40. Ø N 41. Ø N 42. Ø Y
Recharge 3. Y N 4. Y N 5. Y N 6. Y N 7. Y N 8. Y N 9. Y N 10. N Y	Fish Food Chain/ Habitat 43. Y N 44. Y N 45. Y N 46. Y N 47. Y N 48. Y N 49. Y N 50. Y N
Discharge 11. YN 12. ON 13. ON 14. ON 15. DY Flood Storage 16. ON 17. ON See Comment form 18. ON	50. YN 51. YN 52. YY Wildlife Habitat 54. YN 55. YN 57. YN 58. YN 59. YN
19. ON 20. ON 21. ON See Comment form 22. OY Shoreline Anchoring 23. YOU 24. ON 25. ON 26. ON See Comment form 27. ON	Active Recreation 61. Y 0 62. ON 63. Y 0 64. ON 65. Y 0 67. DY
28. Y 29. 29. 39 Y Sed iment Trapping 30. Y 30 31. Y 30 32.	Passive 68. Y (0) 69. Y (0) 70. Y (0) 71. O N 72. Y (0) 73. Y (0) 74. Y (0) 75. O N 76. Y (0) 77. O N 78. N (0)

Form "A" Commer	nts (Fowling Gut System - Palustrine Portion)
WIA	= Area inside dash line (Figure 8)
Basin	= WIA + Fowling Gut from origin to Mire Pond bordering the Mire Pond fill site and the Mire Pond scrub-shrub system
5.2	See site map (Figure 8) and definitions for this site
7	Predictor not used
8	Sub-watershed - Same as estuarine portion except includes developed areas surrounding WIA to east
9	Predictor not used
23	< 15 cm porous organic over sand
39.5	Constriction by six or more small culverts between WIA and Chincoteague Bay
39.6	Nonpoint discharge around Fowling Gut

Form "B"	Comments	(Fowling Gut	System -	EStuatine	and Faluscrine
portions	and Mixed	Hardwoods Swa	amp)		
21	C:+	o E flooded d	aily no	t as valu	able for flood

21	Site E flooded daily, not as valuable for flood storage and desynchronization
17	Ditches from roads and yards drain into site P
17	Ditches from roads and yards drain into mixed hardwoods swamp, Chincoteague Ridge/Swales also
26	For Mixed Hardwoods Swamp Basin = WIA, sediment trapping of little value